

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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R 300032Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152146

FOR AMBASSADOR CUTLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: CASE OF PROFESSOR KOLALA MWAMBI

1. PROFESSOR MWAMBI, WHOM YOU KNOW, CAME TO SEE ME JUNE 29 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER HIS FUTURE IN ZAIRE. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS IN US, HE RETURNS TO KINSHASA IN MID-OCTOBER TO RESUME HIS TEACHING AT UNIVERSITY OF ZAIRE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF (1) HIS OUTSPOKENNESS IN ADVOCATING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REFORM IN ZAIRE; AND (2) PAST EFFORTS OF UNIVERSITY'S VICE RECTOR TO INCRIMINATE HIM AS POLITICALLY UNRELIABLE; AND (3) REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED OF POST-SHABA ARRESTS, HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY.

2. MWAMBI STRIKES ME AS BEING A LOYAL ZAIRIAN WHO WANTS TO DO THE BEST FOR HIS COUNTRY, AND I UNDERSTAND HE IS AN EXPERT IN ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. HE TELLS ME
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THAT IN PREVIOUS INSTANCES WHERE VICE RECTOR SOUGHT TO DO HIM IN, MOBUTU STOOD BY HIM. BUT HE, MWAMBI, IS AFRAID THAT HIS ENEMIES MAY HAVE FINALLY "GOTTEN" TO MOBUTU AND SOMEHOW PERSUADED THE LATTER THAT MWAMBI IS NOT RPT NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

3. HE HAS ASKED THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE DISCREETLY

GIVE HIM SOME INDICATION RE PREVAILING POLITICAL WIND IN
ZAIRE AS IT MIGHT AFFECT HIS SAFETY UPON HIS RETURN. I
REALIZE THIS IS A DELICATE MATTER. IF YOU FEEL THAT IT
WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER ANY FURTHER,
I WILL TELL MWAMBI THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO MAKE ANY
JUDGMENT ON HIS CASE. VANCE

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